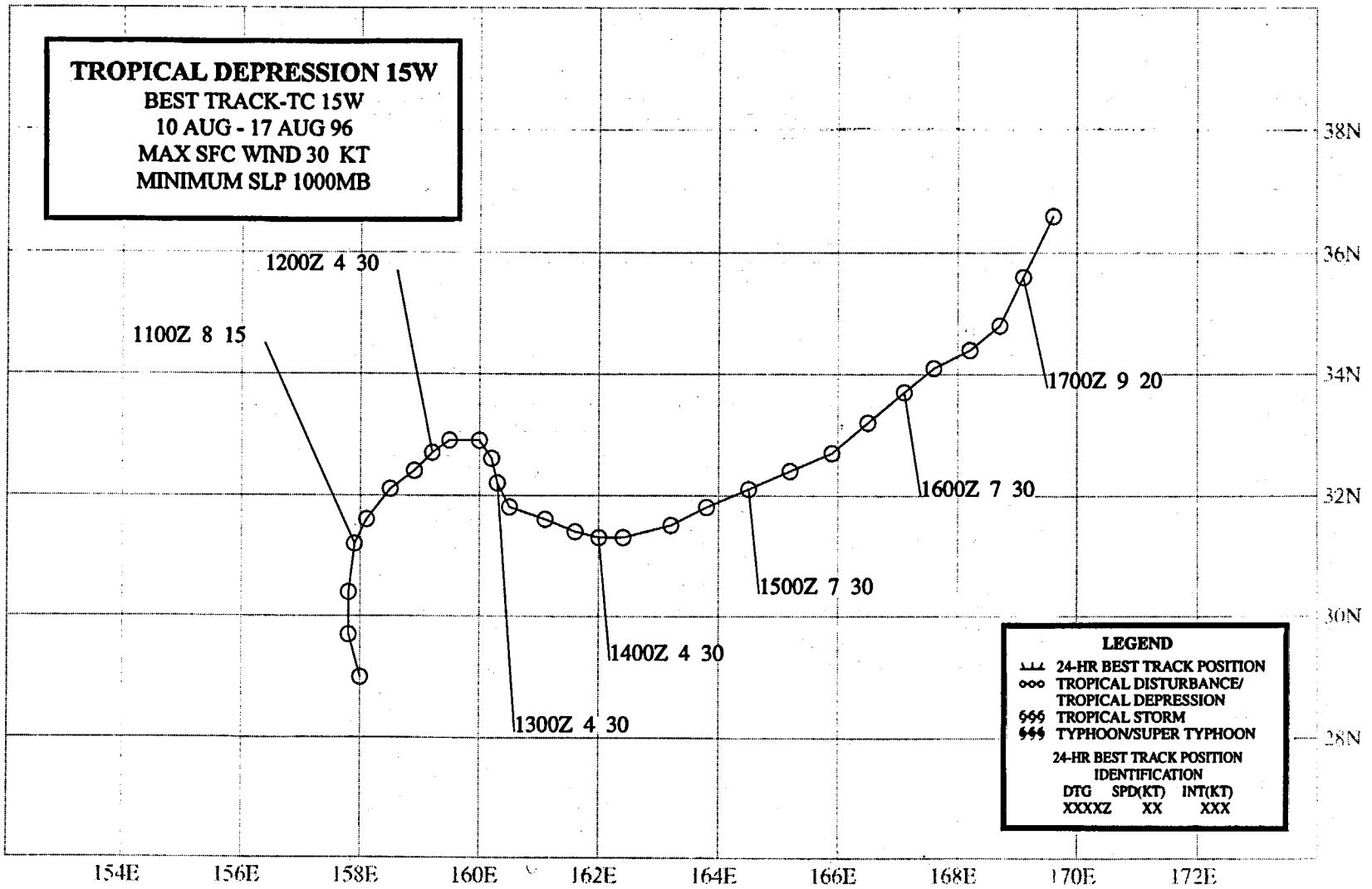
TROPICAL DEPRESSION 15W
BEST TRACK-TC 15W
10 AUG - 17 AUG 96
MAX SFC WIND 30 KT
MINIMUM SLP 1000MB
1200Z 4 30
1100Z 8 15
1700Z 9 20
1600Z 7 30
1500Z 7 30
1400Z 4 30
1300Z 4 30
38N
36N
34N
32N
30N
28N
154E
156E
158E
160E
162E
164E
166E
168E
170E
172E
LEGEND
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE/
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL STORM
TYPHOON/SUPER TYPHOON
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
IDENTIFICATION
DTG SPD(KT) INT(KT)
XXXXZ XX XXX

TROPICAL DEPRESSION 15W

Tropical Depression (TD) 15W originated in the subtropics at a time when the monsoon trough was displaced far to the north of normal (see Figure 3-13-4 in Kirk's summary for a graphic depiction of this unusual low-level flow pattern). TD 15W had an unusual structure comprised of an extensive region of low-level cloud lines surrounding a small area of deep convection (Figure 3-15-1a). First identified on the 100600Z August Significant Tropical Weather Advisory, the system drifted slowly northward and became better organized. Based on satellite intensity estimates of 25 kt (13 m/sec), the first warning was issued, valid at 120600Z. Moving generally toward the east-northeast, the system maintained its unusual cloud pattern. The peak intensity of 30 kt (15 m/sec) — as estimated from satellite imagery, and confirmed by a scatterometer pass (Figure 3-15-1b) — was maintained for several days. When the system lost its deep convection, and the extent and organization of the low-level cloud lines decreased, the final warning was issued valid at 160600Z.

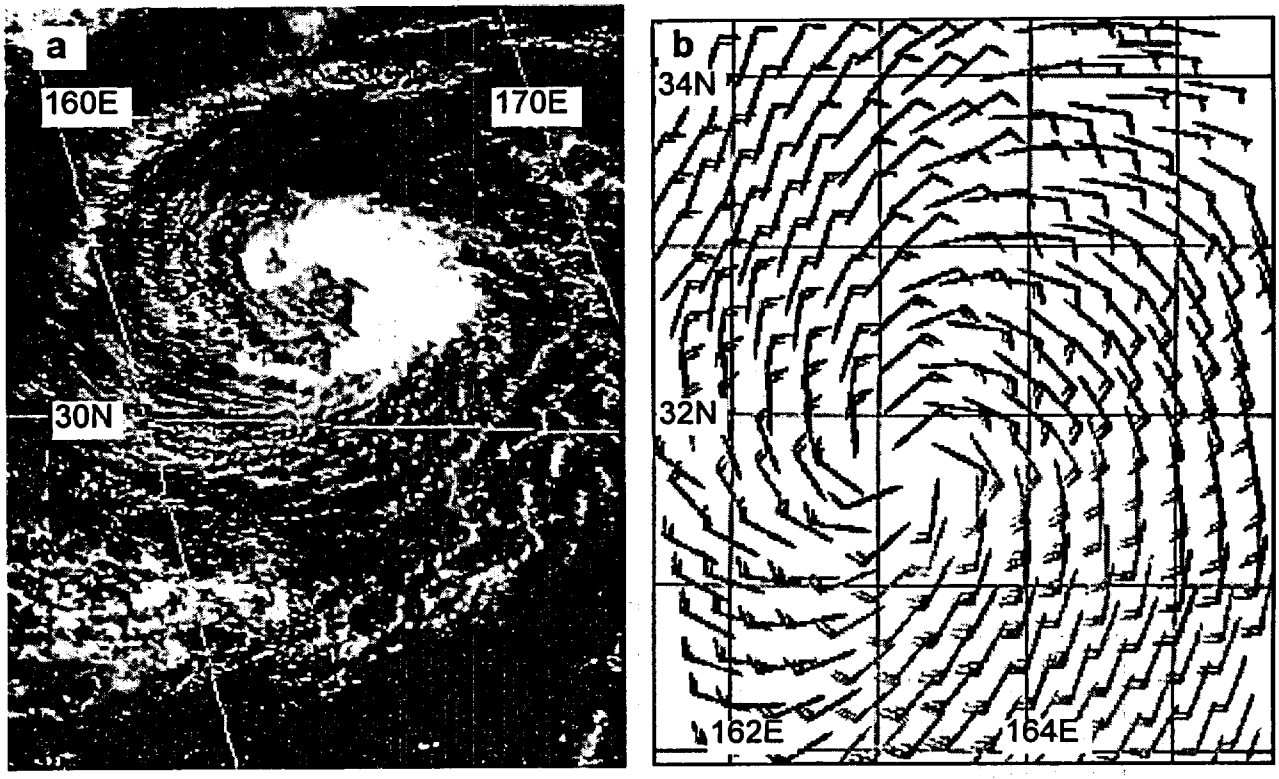

Figure 3-15-1 (a) Well-defined low-level cloud lines coil tightly around a poorly organized area of deep convection (132331Z August visible GMS imagery). (b) A region of 25- to 30-kt (13- to 15-m/sec) winds was detected by scatterometry in the southeastern quadrant of TD 15W (141132Z August ERS-2 scatterometer-derived marine surface winds).